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Scientology files suit on Eli Lilly over PR firm

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Eli Lilly sued for \$14.7M by Church of Scientology

The Associated Press

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The suit, filed Friday in federal court, names as defendants Lilly, the British advertising conglomerate WPP Group, its chief executive officer, Martin Sorrell and WPP's New York and Washington-based public relations

subsidiary, Hill & Knowlton Inc.

It alleges the defendants violated the church's civil and contractual rights by pressuring Sorrell and Hill & Knowlton to drop the church as a client. Two law firms representing the church were also pressured to cut their relationships with the church, the suit says.

Of the \$14.7 million, \$10 million is sought for punitive damages, said the Rev. Heber C. Jentzsch, president of the church.

"Suing or threatening to sue is one of Scientology's most frequently used methods of intimidation," said Marie Abbot, a spokeswoman for Lilly.